Afforestation in Karnataka under JBIC-II

2626. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the afforestation activities planned to be taken under JBIC-II phase in Karnataka during the years 2005-06 to 2012-13;

(b) the details of districts covered under this schme;

(c) how many Village Forest Committees have been constituted and what is the amount earmarked for this; and

(d) whether there is any proposal with the Government to amend Forest Conservation Act to enable the State Government to take up development work in forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The afforestation activities planned to be taken up under JBIC-II phase in Karnataka during the years 2005-06 to 2012-13 are as follows:

* Ecological restoration through natural regeneration
* Assisted natural regeneration
* Plantation for timber production for Western ghat area
* Plantation for fuel wood and small timber
* Non timber forest produce
* Planting in schools
* Mangrove Plantation
* Farm Forestry

All the 27 districts of karnataka State are covered under this Project. 417 nos. of village forest Committes (VFCS) had been constituted upto 31.3.2006 by incurring an expenditure of Rs. 1.583 crores.

(d) There is no proposal with the Central Govt, to amend the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The proposals for diversion of forest land for development work received from the State/UT Govts, are processed on merit.

Fund For biosphere reserves in Assam

2627. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons as to why no fund was released to Assam for Biosphere Reserve in 2004-05;